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Frobisher's first voyage.

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Frobisher's First Voyage.

FROM THE "TRUE DISCOURSE," BY GEORGE BESTE.

The colde regions of the worlde are those whiche, tending towarde the pole artike and antartike, are withoute the circuit or bounds of the seaven climates, which, agreeable to the opinion of the olde writers, is founde and sette out in our authore of the *Sphere*, Joannes de Sacrobosco, where he playnely sayeth, that without the seaventh climate, which is bounded by a parallel passing at fiftie degrees in latitude, all the habitation beyonde that to be discommodious and intollerable: but Gemma Phrisius, a late writer, finding England and Scotland to be withoute the compasse of those climates wherein he knew to be very temperate and good habitation, added thereunto two other climates, the uttermost paralell whereof passeth by 56 degrees in latitude, and therein comprehendeth over and above the first computation, England, Scotland, Denmarke, Moscovia, etc., which all are rich and mightie kingdomes.

The old writers, perswaded by bare conjecture, went aboute to determine of those places, by comparing them to their own complexions, bycause they felt them to be hardly tolerable to themselves, and so toke thereby an argument of the whole habitable earth, as if a man borne in Morochus, or other part of Barbarie, should at the latter end of sommer, upon the suddayne, eyther naked, or wyth hys thinne vesture, be broughte into England, he would judge this region presently not to be habitable, bycause he being broughte up in so warme a countrey, is not able heere to live, for so sodaine an alteration of the cold ayre; but if the same man hadde come at the beginning of sommer, and so afterwarde by little and little by certaine de-

grees, had felt and acquainted himselfe with the frost of autumne, it would have seemed by degrees to harden him, and so to make it far more tollerable, and by use after one yeere or two, the ayre woulde seeme to hym more temperate. It was compted a greate matter in the olde time, that there was a brasse pot broken in sunder with frozen water in *Ponthus*, which after was broughte and shewed in *Delphis*, in token of a miraculous cold region and winter, and therefore consecrated to the Temple of Apollo.

This effect being wroghte in the paralell of 48 degrees in latitude, it was presentlye compted a place verye hardye and uneasily to be inhabited for the greate colde. And howe then can suche men define uppon other regions very farre without that paralell, wh'er they were inhabited or not, seeing that in so neare a place they so grossely mistooke the matter, and others their followers being contented with the inventions of the olde authors, have persisted willingly in the same opinion, with more confidence than consideration of the cause, so lightly was that opinion received, as touching the unhabitable clime neare and under the Poles.

Therefore I am at this present to prove y^t all the land lying betweene the laste climate even unto the point directly under either Poles, is or maye be inhabited, especially of suche creatures as are ingendred and bredde therein. For indeed it is to be confessed, that some particular living creature cannot live in every particular place or region, especially wyth the same joy and felicitie, as it did where it was first bredde, for the certane agreement of nature that is betweene the place, and the thing bredde in that place, as appeareth by the elephant, which being translated and brought out of the second or third climate, though they may live, yet will they never ingender or bring forth yong. Also wee see the like in many kinds of plants and hearbs: for example, the orange tree, although in Naples they bring forth fruit abundantly, in Rome and Florence they will beare onlye faire greene leaves, but not any fruite: and translated into England, they will hardly beare either flowers, fruite, or leaves, but are the next winter pinched and withered with colde: yet it followeth not for this, that England, Rome, and Florence should not be habitable.

In the proving of these colde regions habitable, I shall be verye shorte, bicause the same reasons serve for this purpose, which were alleaged before in the proving the middle zone to

be temperate, especially seeing all heate and colde proceede from the sunne, by the meanes eyther of the angle his beames doeth make with the horizon, or else by ye long or shorte continuance of the sun's presence above ground: so that if the sunnes beames do heate perpendicularlye at righte angles, then there is one cause of heate, and if the sunne doe also long continue above the horizon, then the heate thereby is muche encreased by accesse of this other cause, and so groweth to a kind of extremitie. And these ii causes, as I said before, doe moste concurre under the two tropickes, and therefore there is the greatest heate of ye worlde. And likewise, where both these causes are most absent, there is greatest want of heate, and encrease of colde (seeing that colde is nothing but the privation and absence of heat), and if one cause be wanting and the other present the effect will grow indifferent. Therefore this is to be understood, that the nearer anye region is to the equinoctiall the higher the sunne doeth rise over their heades at noone, and so maketh either righte or neare righte angles, but the sun tarryeth with them so much the shorter time, and causeth shorter dayes, with longer and colder nights, to restore the damage of the daye paste, by reason of the moisture consumed by vapour. But in such reasons, over the which the sun riseth lower (as in regions extended towardes eyther pole) it maketh there unequall angles, but the sunne continueth longer, and maketh longer dayes, and causeth so much shorter and warmer nights, as retayning warme vapoures of the daye paste. For there are found by experience sommer nights in Scotland and Gothland very hot, when under the equinoctiall they are found very colde. This benefit of the sunnes long continuance and encrease of the day, doth augment so muche the more in colde regions, as they are nearer the poles, and ceaseth not encreasing, until it come directly under the point of the pole articke, where the sunne continueth above grounde the space of sixe moneths or halfe a yeaire togither, and so the daye is halfe a yere longe, that is the time of ye suns being in the north signes, from the first degree of Aries until the last of Virgo, that is all the time from our 10 day of March, untill the 14th of September. The sun therefore during the time of these 6 moneths without any offence or hinderaunce of the nighte, gyveth his influence upon those landes with heate that never ceaseth during that time, which maketh to the great increase of sommer, by reason of the sunnes continuance. Therefore it followeth, that though the

sunne be not there very high over their heads to cause right angle beams and to give great heate, yet the sun being there sometime almost 24 degrees high, doth caste a convenient and meane heate which there continueth without hinderance of the night the space of six moneths (as is before saide) during whiche time there foloweth to be a convenient moderate and temperate heat, or else rather it is to be suspected the heat there to be very great, both for continuance and also *quia virtus unita crescit*, the vertue and strength of heat united in one encreaseth. If then there be suche a moderate heat under the poles, and the same to continue so long time, what shoulde move the olde writers to saye there cannot be place for habitation. And that the certaintie of this temperate heat under both the poles might more manifestlye appeare, lette us consider the position and qualitie of the sphere, the length of the day, and so to gather the heighth of the sunne at all times, and by consequent the quantitie of his angle, and so lastely the strength of his heate

Those landes and regions lying under the pole and having the pole for their zenith, muste needes have the equinoctiall circle for their horizon, therefore the sunne entring into the north signes, and describing every 24 houres a paralell to the equinoctiall by the diurnall motion of *Primum Mobile*, the same paralels must needes be wholely above the horizon, and so looke how many degrees there are from the fyrst of Aries to the last of Virgo, so many whole revolutions there are above theyr horizon y^t dwell under the pole, whiche amounteth to 182, and so manye of oure dayes the sunne continueth with them. During whych tyme they have there continuall daye and lighte withoute anye hinderaunce of moiste nightes. Yet it is to be noted that the sunne being in the fyrst degree of Aries, and laste degree of Virgo, maketh his revolution in the very horizon, so that in these 24 houres halfe the body of the sunne is above the horizon and the other halfe is under this only center, describing both the horizon and the equinoctiall circle.

And therefore seeing the greatest declination of the sun is almost 24 degrees, it followeth his greatest height in those countries to be almost 24 degrees. And so high is the sun at noone to us in London about y^e 29 of October, being in the 15 degree of Scorpio, and likewise the 21 of January being in the 15 of Aquarius. Therefore looke what force the sun at noone hath in London the 29th of October, the same force of heate it hathe, to them that dwell under the pole, the space almost of

two moneths, during the time of the sommer *solstitium*, and that without intermingling of any colde night: so that if the heate of the sunne at noone coulde be well measured in London (which is verye harde to do, bycause of the long nights, whiche engender greate moysture and colde), then woulde manifestlye appeare by expresse numbers the maner of the heate under the poles, which certainly must needes be to the inhabitants verye commodious and profitable, if it inclyne not to over much heate, and if moysture do not want.

For as in October in England we find temperate aire, and have in our gardens hearbes and floures notwithstanding our colde nights, how much more shoulde they have y^e same good ayre, being continual without night. This heate of ours continueth but one houre while the sunne is in y^e meridian, but theirs continueth a long time in one height. This our heate is weake, and by the coolenesse of the night vanisheth; that heate is strong, and by continual accesse is still increased and strengthened. And thus by a similitude of the equal height of the sunne in both places, appeareth the commodious and moderate heate of the regions under the poles.

And surely I can not thinke that the divine providence hath made any thing uncommunicable, but to have given such order to all things that one way or other the same shoulde be employed, and that every thing and place should be tollerable to the next. But especiallye all things in this lower world be given to man to have dominion and use thereof. Therefore wee neede no longer to doubt of the temperate and commodious habitation under the poles during the tyme of sommer.

And al the controversie consisteth in the winter, for then the sun leaveth those regions, and is no more seene for the space of other sixe months, in the which time al the sunnes course is under their horizon for the space of halfe a yeare, and then those regions (saye some) muste needs be deformed with horible darkenesse and continual nyghte, whiche maye be the cause that beastes can not seeke theyr foode, and that also the cold should then be intollerable. By which double evils al living creatures should be constrainyd to die, and were not able to indure the extremitie and injurie of winter and famine ensuynge thereof, but that all things shoulde perish before the sommer folowing, when they should bring forth their broode and yong, and that for these causes y^e said clime about the pole shold be desolate and not habitable. To al which objections may be

answered in this manner: first, that though the sun be absent from them those five months, yet it followeth not there should be such extreme darkenesse, for as the sunne is departed under their horizon, so is it not farre from them. And not so soone as the sunne falleth, so sodainely commeth the darke night, but the evening doth substitute and prolong the daye a good while after by twilight. After which time the residue of ye night receiveth light of the moone and starres untill the breake of the day, which giveth also a certaine light before the sunnes rising, so that by these means the nights are seldom dark, which is verified in all parts of the world, but least in the middle zone under the equinoctiall, where the twylights are short and the nights darker than in any other place, bycause the sun goeth under their horizon so deepe, even to their *antipodes*. Wee see in Englannde in the sommer nights, when the sun goeth not far under the horizon, that by the light of the moone and stars wee may travel al night, and if occasion were do some other labour also. And there is no man that doubteth whether our cattel can see to feede in ye nights, seeing wee are so well certified thereof by our experience: and by reason of the sphere, our nights should be darker than any time under the poles.

The astronomers consent that the sun, descending from our upper hemisphere at the 18 paralell under the horizon, maketh an end of twylight, so that at length the darke night ensueth, and that afterward in the morning, the sun approaching againe within as many paralels, doth drive away ye night by accesse of ye twylight. Againe, by the position of the sphere under ye pole, the horizon and the equinoctiall are al one. These revolutions therefore that are paralell to the equinoctiall are also parallel to the horizon, so that the sun descending under ye horizon, and there describing certain paralels not farre distant, doeth not bringe darke nights to those regions until it come to the paralels distant 18 degrees from ye equinoctiall, that is, about ye 21 degree of Scorpio, which wil be about ye 4 day of our November and after the winter *solstitium*, ye sun retourning backe againe to ye 9 degree of Aquarius, whiche wil be aboute ye 19 of January, during which time only, that is from ye 4 of November untill the xix day of January, which is about six weeks space, those regions do want ye commoditie of twylights. Therefore, during ye time of these said six moneths of darknesse under ye poles, ye night is destitute of ye benefit of ye sun, and ye said twylights, only for ye space of six weeks or thereabout.

And yet neither this time of six weeks is without remedy fro heaven. For ye moone with hir encreased light hathe accesse at that time and illuminateth the moneths, lacking light every one of themselves severally halfe the course of ye moneth, by whose benefite it commeth to passe yt ye night named extreame dark possesseth those regions no longer than one moneth, neither that continually or al at one time, but this also diuided into two sorts of shorter nights, of ye which either of them endureth for ye space of 15 dayes, and are illuminate of ye moone accordingly. And this reason is gathered out of the sphere, whereby we may testifie yt the sommers are warme and fruitful, and the winters nights under the pole are tollerable to living creatures. And if it be so that the winter and time of darknes there be very cold, yet hath not nature left them unprovided therefore. For there ye beasts are covered with haire so muche the thicker in how much the vehemensie of cold is greater, by reason whereof the best and richest furres are broughte out of the coldest regions. Also the foules of these cold countries have thicker skins, thicker feathers, and more stored of down than in other hot places. Our Englishmen that travel to S. Nicholas, and go a fishing to Wardhouse, enter far within the circle artike, and so are in the frozen zone; and yet there, as well as in Isealand, and all along those northern seas, they finde the greatest store of the greatest fishes that are, as whales, etc., and also abundance of meane fishes, as herings, coddes, haddockes, blettes, etc., whiche argueth, that the sea as well as the land, maye bee and is well frequented and inhabited in the colde countries.

But some, perhaps, will marvel there should be such temperate places in ye regions aboute ye poles, when at under degrees in latitude, our Captaine Frobisher and his compayne were troubled wyth so manye and so great mountaines of fleeting ise, with so great stormes of colde, with such continuall snow on toppes of mountaines, and with such barren soyle, there being neither woodde or trees, but lowe shrubbes, and suche like. To al which objections may be answered thus:— First, those infinite ilandes of ise were engendered and congealed in time of winter, and now by the gret heate of sommer were thawed, and then by ebbes, floudes, windes, and currants, were driven to and fro, and troubled the fleete, so that this is an argument to prove the heat in sommer there to be great, that was able to thaw so monstrous mountaines of ise. As for continuall snow on

tops of mountains, it is ther no otherwise than is in the hottest parte of the middle zone, where also lyeth great snowe al the sommer long upon topes of mountaines, bycause there is not sufficient space for the sunnes reflection wherby the snowe should be molten. Touching the colde stormy windes, and the barrennesse of the country, it is there, as it is in *Cornwall* and *Devonshire* in England, which parts, though we know to be fruitful and fertile, yet on the north side therof al amongst the coast within seaven or eight myles off the sea, there can neither hedge nor tree grow, althoughe they be diligently by art husbanded and seene unto; and the cause therof are the northerne driving windes, whiche, coming from the sea, are so bitter and sharp, that they kill al y^e yong and tender plants, and suffer scarce anything to grow, and so is it in y^e ilands of *Meta Incognita*, which are subject most to east and northerne winds, which y^e last were choked up y^e passage so with ise, that the fleet could hardly recover their port; yet, notwithstanding all the objections that may be, the countrey is habitable, for there are men, women, children, and sundrie kind of beastes in great plentie, as beares, dere, hares, foxes, and dogges: all kind of flying fowles, as duckes, seamews, wilmots, partriches, larkes, crowes, hawkes, and such like, as in the thirde booke you shall understand more at large. Then it appeareth, that not only the middle zone, but also the zones about the poles are habitable, which thing being well considered, and familiarly knownen to our generall Captaine Frobisher, as well for that he is thoroughly furnished of the knowledge of the sphere, and all other skilles apperteyning to the art of navigation, as also for the confirmation he hath of the same by many yeares experiance, both by sea and land, and being persuaded of a new and neerer passage to Cataya, than by Capo d'buona Speranza, which the Portugalles yeerly use. He began first with himselfe to devise, and then with his friendes to conferre, and layde a playne platte unto them, that that voyage was not onely possible by the north-weast, but also, as he coulde prove, easie to bee performed. And further, he determined and resolved wyth himselfe, to go make full prooфе thereof, and to accomplishe, or bring true certificate of the truth, or else never to retourne againe, knowing this to be the onely thing of the worlde that was left yet undone, whereby a notable mind mighte be made famous and fortunate. But although his will were great to performe this notable voyage, whereof hee had conceyved in

his mind a great hope, by sundry sure reasons and secret intelligence, whiche heere, for sundry causes, I leave untouched — yet he wanted altogether meanes and abilitie to set forward and performe the same. Long tyme he conferred with his private friendes of these secretes, and made also manye offers for the performing of the same in effect unto sundry merchants of our countrey, above fifteen yeares before he attempted the same, as by good witnesse shall well appeare (albeit some evill willers whiche challenge to themselves the frutes of other mens laboures, have greatly injured him in the reportes of the same, saying that they have bin the first authors of that action, and that they have learned him the way, which themselves, as yet, have never gone). But perceyving that hardly he was hearkened unto of the merchants, whiche never regarde vertue withoute sure, certayne, and present gaynes, hee repayred to the courte (from whence, as from the fountaine of oure commonwealth, all good causes have theyr chife encrease and mayntenance), and there layde open to manye great estates and learned men, the plot and summe of hys devise. And amongst maney honourable myndes whyche favoured hys honest and commendable enterprise, he was specially bounde and beholdyng to the ryghte honourable Ambrose Dudley, Earle of Warwicke, whose favourable mynde and good disposition, hath alwayes bin readye to countenance and advance all honest actions wyth the authors and executors of the same ; and so by meanes of my lorde hys honourable countenance, hee recyved some conforte of hys cause, and by little and little, with no small expense and payne, brought hys cause to some perfection, and hadde drawen together so many adventurers and suche summes of money as myghte well defray a reasonable charge, to furnishe hymselfe to sea withall.

He prepared two small barkes of twentie and fyve and twentie tunne a peece, wherein hee intended to accomplish his pretended voyage. Wherfore, beeying furnished wyth the forsayde two barkes and one small pinnesse of tenne tunne burthen, havyng therein victuals and other necessaries for twelve monethes provision, he departed uppon the sayde voyage from Blackewall the fifteenth of June, *Anno Domini 1576.*

One of the barkes wherein he wente, was named the Gabriell and the other the Michaell, and sayling north-weast from Englande uppon the firste of July, at length he hadde sighte of a highe and ragged lande, whiche he judged Freeselande (whereof

some authours have made mention), but durst not approche the same by reason of the greate store of ise that lay amongst the coast, and the greate mistes that troubled them not a little.

Not farre from thence hee lost compayne of his small pinnesse, whiche, by meanes of the greate storme, he supposed to bee swallowed uppe of the sea, wherein he lost onely foure men.

Also the other barke named the Michaell mistrusting the matter, conveyed themselves privilie away from him, and retourned home wyth greate reporte that he was cast awaye.

The worthye captayne, notwithstanding these discomfortes, although his mast was sprung, and his toppe mast blowen overboorde wyth extreame foule weather, continued hys course towardes the north-weast, knowing that the sea at length must needes have an endyng, and that some lande shoulde have a beginning that way; and determined, therefore, at the least, to bryng true prooфе what lande and sea the same myght bee, so farre to the northwestwardes, beyonde anye man that hathe heeretofore discovered. And the twentieth of July hee hadde sighte of a highe lande, whyche hee called Queene Elizabeth's Forlande, after hyr Majesties name, and sayling more northerlie amongst the coast he descrid another forlande with a greate gutte, bay, or passage, deviding as it were, two mayne-lands or continents asunder. There he met with store of exceeding great ise al this coast along, and coveting still to continue his course to the northwardes, was alwayes by contrarie winde deteyned overthwarte these straytes, and could not get beyonde. Within few days after he perceyved the ise to be well consumed and gone, eyther there engulfed in by some swifte currants or in draftes caried more to the southwardes of the same straytes, or else conveyed some other way; wherefore he determined to make profe of this place to see how far that gutte had continuance, and whether he myghte carrie himselfe through the same into some open sea on the backe syde, whereof he conceyved no small hope, and so entred the same the one-and-twentieth of July, and passed above fyftie leagues therein, as hee reported, having upon eyther hande a greate mayne or continent; and that land upon hys right hande as hee sayled westward, he judged to be the continente of Asia, and there to bee devided from the firme of America, whiche lyeth upon the lefte hande over against the same.

This place he named after his name Frobisher's Stretyes,

lyke as Magellanus at the south-weast ende of the worlde having discovered the passage to the South Sea (where America is devided from the continent of that lande whiche lyeth under the south pole), and called the same straites Magellanes streightes. After he hadde passed 60 leagues into this foresayde strayte hee wente ashore, and founde signe where fire had bin made.

He saw mightie deere y^t seemed to be mankind, which ranne at him, and hardly he escaped with his life in a narrow way, where he was faine to use defence and policie to save his life.

In this place he saw and perceyved sundry tokens of the peoples resorting thither, and being ashore upon the toppe of a hill, he perceived a number of small things fleeting in the sea afarre off, whyche hee supposed to be porposes or seales, or some kinde of strange fishe; but coming nearer he discovered them to be men in small boates made of leather. And before he could descende downe from the hyll certain of those people had almost cut off his boate from him, having stollen secretly behinde the rocks for that purpose, where he speedily hasted to his boate and bente himselfe to his holberte, and narrowly escaped the daunger and saved his bote. Afterwards he had sundry conferences with them, and they came aborde his ship, and brought him salmon and raw fleshe and fishe, and greedily devoured the same before our mens faces. And to shewe their agilitie, they tryed many maisteries upon the ropes of the ship after our mariners fashion, and appeared to be very strong of theyr armes and nimble of their bodies. They exchaunged coates of seale and beares skinnes, and suche like, with oure men, and received belles, looking-glasses, and other toyes in recompence thereof againe. After great curtesie and many meetings, our mariners, contrarie to theyr captaines dyrection, began more easily to trust them, and five of oure men going ashore, were by them intercepted with theyr boate, and were never since hearde of to this daye againe. So that the captaine being destitute of boate, barke, and al company, had scarcely sufficient number to conduct back his bark againe. He coulde nowe neither convey himselfe ashore to rescue his men (if he had bin able), for want of a boate; and again, the subtile traytours were so warie as they would after that never come within our mens danger. The captaine, notwithstanding, desirous to bring some token from thence of his being there, was greatly discontented that he had not before apprehended some of them. And therefore to deceive the deceivers he wrought a prettie

pollicie, for knowing well how they greatly delighted in our toyes, and specially in belles, he rang a pretie lowbel, making wise that he would give him the same that would come and fetch it. And bycause they would not come within his daunger for feare, he flung one bell unto them, which of purpose he threw short that it might fal into the sea and be lost. And to make them more greedie of the matter he rang a lowder bell, so that in the ende one of them came neare the ship side to receive the bell, which, when he thought to take at the captaine's hand he was thereby taken himself; for the captain being redily provided, let the bel fal and caught the man fast, and plucked him with maine force boate and al into his bark out of the sea. Wherupon, when he founde himself in captivitie, for very choller and disdain, he bit his tong in twayne within his mouth: notwithstanding, he died not therof, but lived untill he came in Englande, and then he died of colde which he had taken at sea.

Nowe with this newe pray (whiche was a sufficient witnesse of the captaines farre and tedious travell towards the unknowne partes of the worlde, as did well appeare by this strange Infidel, whose like was never seen, red, nor harde of before, and whose language was neyther knowne nor understande of anye) the saide Captaine Frobisher retourned homeward, and arrived in England in August [?] folowing, an. 1576, where he was highly commended of all men for his great and notable attempt, but specially famous for the great hope he brought of the passage to Cataya, which he doubted nothing at all to find and passe through in those parts, as he reporteth.

And it is especially to be remembred at the first arrivall in those partes, there laye so great store of ise all the coaste along so thicke togither, that hardely his boate coulde passe unto the shoare. At lengthe, after diverse attempts, he commaunded his company if by anye possible meanes they could get ashore, to bring him whatsoever thing they could first find, whether it were living or dead, stocke or stone, in token of Christian possession, which thereby he toke in behalfe of the Queenes most excellent Majestie, thinking that therby he might justify the having and enjoying of ye same things that grew in these unknowne partes.

Some of his compayne broughte floures, some greene grasse, and one brought a peece of a blacke stone, much lyke to a sea-cole in colore, whiche by the waight seemed to be some kinde

of mettall or mynerall. This was a thing of no accompt in the judgement of the captain at the first sight. And yet for novelty it was kept, in respect of the place from whence it came.

After his arrival in London, being demanded of sundrie his friendes what thing he had brought them home of that country, he had nothing left to present them withall but a peece of this black stone. And it fortuned a gentlewoman, one of ye adventurers wives, to have a peece thereof, which by chance she threw and burned in the fire, so long, that at the length being taken forth and quenched in a little vinegre, it glistered with a bright Marquesset of golde. Whereupon the matter being called in some question, it was brought to certain goldfinders in London to make assay therof, who indeed found it to hold gold, and that very ritchly for the quantity. Afterwards, the same goldfinders promised great matters thereof if there were anye store to be found, and offred themselves to adventure for the serching of those partes from whence the same was brought. Some, that had great hope of the matter, sought secretly to have à lease at hir Majesties hands of those places, whereby to enjoy the masse of so great a publike profit unto their owne private gaines.

In conclusion, the hope of the same golde ore to be founde, kindled a greater opinion in the heartes of many to advaunce the voyage againe. Whereupon preparation was made for a newe voyage against the yeare following, and the captaine more specially directed by commission for the searching more of this golde ore than for the searching any further of the passage. And being wel accompanied with diverse resolute and forward gentlemen, hir Majestie then lying at the right honourable the Lord of Warwicks house in Essex, came to take theyr leaves, and kissing hir highnesse hands, with gracious countenance and comfortable words departed towardes their charge.

EXTRACT FROM BESTE'S DEDICATION TO SIR CHRISTOPHER HATTON.

By this discourse, it may please your Honour to behold the greate industrie of oure present age, and the invincible mindes of our Englishe nation, who have never lefte anye worthy thing unattempted, nor anye parte almoste of the whole world unsearched, whome lately, neyther stormes of seas by long and tedious voyages, danger of darke fogs and hidden rockes in unknown coastes, congealed and frozen

seas, with mountains of fleeting ise, nor yet present dayly before their face, coulde anye white dismay, or cause to desiste from intended enterprises ; but rather preferring an honourable death before a shameful retourne, have (notwithstanding the former dangers,) after many perillous repulses, recovered their desired port. So that, if now the passage to CATAYA thereby be made open unto us, (which only matter hytherto hath occupied the finest heades of the world, and promiseth us a more riches by a nearer way than eyther *Spaine* or *Portugale* possessest) where of the hope (by the good industrie and great attemptes of these men is greatly augmented) or if the golde ore in these new discoveries founde out, doe in goodnesse as in greate plenty aunswere expectation, and the successe do followe as good, as the proofe thereof hitherto made, is great, we may truely infer, that the Englishman in these our dayes, in his notable discoveries, to the Spaniard and Portingale is nothing inferior : and for his hard adventures, and valiant resolutions, greatly superior. For what hath the Spaniarde or Portingale done by the southeast and southweast, that the Englishman by the northeast and northwest hath not countervailed the same ?

And albeit I confesse that the Englishe have not hytherto had so ful successe of profit and commoditie of pleasaunt place (considering that the former nations have happily chanced to travel by more temperate clymates, where they had not onlye good meates and drinke, but all other things necessarie for the use of man) all whiche things, the English, travelling by more intemperate places, and as it were with mayne force, making waye through seas of ise, have wanted, which notwithstanding argueth a more resolution: for *Difficiliora pulchriora*, that is, the adventure the more hard the more honorable: yet concerning the perfecter knowledge of the world, and geographicall description, (wherein the present age and posteritie also, by a more universal understanding is much furthered, as appeareth by my universall mappe with pricked boundes here annexed) herein, the Englishman deserveth chife honour above any other. For neyther Spaniard nor Portugale, nor anye other besides the English, have bin found, by so great dangers of ise, so neare the Pole, to adventure any discoverie, whereby the obscure and unknownen partes of the world (which otherwise had laine hid) have bin made knownen unto us.

So that it may appeare, that by our Englishmen's industries, and these late voyages, the world is grown to a more fulnesse and perfection; many unknownen lands and islands, (not so much as thought upon before) made knownen unto us: Christ's name spred: the Gospell preached; infidels like to be converted to Christiantie, in places where before the name of God had not once bin hearde of: shipping and seafaring men, have bin employed: navigation and the navie (which is the chief strength of our realm) maintayned: and gentlemen in the sea service, for the better service of their country, wel experienced. Al whiche things are (no doubt) of so gret importance, as being wel wayed, may seeme to countervayle the adventures charges: although the passage to CATAYA were not found out, neither yet the golde ore prove good, wher of both the hope is good and gret. But notwithstanding all these, even in this (if no otherwise) hyr most excellent Majestie hath reaped no small profit, that she may now stand assured, to have many more tried, able and sufficient men against time of need, that

are (which without vaunt may be spoken) of valour gret, for any great adventure, and of governement good for any good place of service. For this may truly be spoken of these men, that there hath not bin seene in any nation, being so many in number, and so far from home, more civil order, better governement, or agreement. For even from the beginning of the service hitherto, there hath neither passed mutinie, quarrel, or notorious fact, either to the slander of the men, or daunger of the voyage, although the gentlemen, souldiers, and marriners (whiche seldom can agree) were by companies matched togither.

But I may perchance (right Honourable) seeme to discourse somewhat too largely, especially in a cause that (as a partie) somewhat concerneth my selfe; which I doe, not for that I doubt of your honorable opinion already conceived of the men, but for that I know, the ignorant multitude is rather ready to slander, than to give good encouragement by due commendation to good causes, who, respecting nothinge but a present gaine, and being more than needefully suspitious of the matter, do therewithall condemne the men, and that without any further respect, either of their honest intents, either of their wel performing the matter they dyd undertake (which according to their direction, was specially to bring home ore) either else of their painful travel (which for their Prince, and the publicke profite of their countries cause they have sustained).

But by the way, it is not unknown to the world, that this our native country of England in al ages hath bred up (and specially at this present aboundeth with) many forward and valiant minds, fit to take in hand any notable enterprise; wherby appeareth, that if the Englishman had bin in times paste as fortunate and foreseeing to accept occasion offered, as he hath bin always forwarde in executing anye cause once taken in hand, he had bin worthily preferred before all nations of the worlde, and the Weast Indies had now bin in the possession of the Englishe.

For *Columbus*, the firste Discoverer of the Weast Indies, made firste offer thereof, with his service, to King *Henry the seaventh*, then Kyng of Englannde, and was not accepted: Whereupon, for want of entertainement here, hee was forced to go into *Spaine*, and offered there (as before) the same to *Ferdinando*, Kyng of *Castyle*, who presently acceptyng the occasion, did first himselfe, and now his successors, enjoy the benefite thereof.

Also *Sebastian Cabota*, being an Englishman, and born in *Bristowe*, after he had discovered sundrie parts of new found lande, and attempted the passage to Cataya by the Northwest, for the King of England, for lacke of entertainment here, (notwithstanding his good desert) was forced to seeke to the Kinge of Spaine, to whose use hee discovered all that tract of *Brazil*, and about the famous river *Rio de la Plata*, and for the same, and other good services there, was afterwards renoumed, by title of *Piloto Maggiore*, that is Graunde Pylote, and constituted chiefe officer of the Contrac-tation house of *Sivilla*: in whiche house are handled all matters concerning the Weast Indies, and the revenues thereof; and further that no Pylot shoulde be admitted for any discoverie but by his direction.

But there hath bin two speciall causes in former age, that have greatly hindered the English nation in their attempts. The one hath bin, lacke of liberalitie in the nobilitie, and the other want of skill in the cosmographie, and the arte of navigation. Whiche kinde of knowledge is very necessary for all oure noblemen, for that wee being ilanders, our chiefest strength consisteth by sea. But these twoo causes are nowe in this present age

(God be thanked) very well reformed; for not only *hir majestie* now, but all the nobilitie also, having perfect knowledge in *Cosmographie*, doe not only with good wordes countenance the forward minds of men, but also with their purses do liberally and bountifully contribute unto the same, whereby it cometh to passe, that navigation, whiche in the time of King Henry the 7th was very rawe, and toke (as it were) but beginning (and ever since hath had by little and little continuall increase) is now in *hir Majestie's* raign grown to his highest perfection.

Martin Frobisher was born in Yorkshire about 1535. He was educated in London, went on a voyage to Guinea in 1554, and was engaged in various expeditions, from that time on. His public services brought him under the notice of the queen and of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who in 1566 wrote his famous "Discourse to prove a Passage to the North-west," published ten years later. This discourse, while still in manuscript, was the incitement to the first expedition commanded by Frobisher for the discovery of a North-west passage. The chief promoter of the expedition was Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick. Frobisher sailed from the Thames with two small barques and a pinnace June 7, 1576, and sighted the southern point of Greenland July 11. He sailed into Frobisher's Bay "above fifty leagues," supposing the land on his right to be Asia and that on the left America. Returning, he reached London in October.

A piece of black pyrite brought home by one of the sailors was pronounced to contain gold; and on his second voyage, the next year, Frobisher was "more specially directed by commission for the searching more of this gold ore than for the searching any further discovery of the passage." Two hundred tons of ore were brought home: but it was pronounced "poor in respect of that brought last year, and that which we know may be brought next year." In May, 1578, Frobisher sailed a third time, with a fleet of fifteen vessels. He landed in the south of Greenland, which he named West England. After losing himself in the "Mistaken Streight" (*i.e.*, Hudson's), and after several weeks of farther explorations, he loaded the soundest vessels with mineral that turned out to be worthless, and returned to England in the autumn.

In 1581 a fourth voyage to Cathay by the north-west was projected, and the command was offered Frobisher; but he relinquished it. He went with Drake to the West Indies as vice-admiral in 1585; and he commanded the "Triumph" in the great Armada fight. He was knighted at sea by the lord high admiral. He served in 1590 with Sir John Hawkins: and in 1592 he was in the service of Sir Walter Raleigh. In 1593 he paid his last visit to his Yorkshire home, where he became a justice of the peace for the West Riding. In the fight at Crozon, near Brest, in 1594, he was wounded; and unskilful surgery led to his death. He died soon after reaching Plymouth, where his entrails were buried in the church of St. Andrew, while his other remains were interred in St. Giles's, Cripplegate, London.

There is no thorough, critical life of Frobisher, like Corbett's work on Drake. There is a brief biography by Jones; and there are good notices in the various works on the Elizabethan Seamen, by Fox Bourne, Froude, Payne, and others. The admirable article in the "Dictionary of National Biography" is by C. H. Coote. Frobisher's work is also well outlined by Charles C. Smith in the chapter on "Explorations to the North-west" in the "Narrative and Critical History of America," vol. iii.; and the bibliographical notes are good.

George Beste's "True Discourse of the Late Voyages of Discoverie for Finding of a Passage to Cathaya, by the North-weast, under the conduct of Martin Frobisher, General" (London, 1578), is the original authority for Frobisher's three voyages. Beste accompanied Frobisher on the second and third voyages. Beste's work was reprinted by Hakluyt; and a fine edition, edited by Collinson, was published by the Hakluyt Society in 1867. This is used for the present leaflet. About one-third of the part devoted to the first voyage is here given, the earlier pages being occupied by a general account of the world at that period.

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